

Docket No. 70669

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Qi et al.
Application No.: 09/976,674
Filed: October 12, 2001
Title: **NOVEL SERINE
PROTEASE GENES
RELATED TO DPPIV**
Group Art. Unit: 1652
Examiner: Walicka, Malgorzata A.

11/B
D.Q.J
6/2/03

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the first Office Action on the merits mailed January 28, 2003, to which a shortened statutory period for response is being contemporaneously extended to expire on May 28, 2003, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks: